

**17 Leawood Drive  
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510**

January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:


I am writing to express my opinions regarding the Microsoft antitrust case. I feel that the settlement reached between the Department of Justice and Microsoft is fair and reasonable, and has been extensive enough for nine states to approve. Further federal action is unnecessary, especially while Microsoft is involved in negotiations with the remaining states to reach a conclusion.

Microsoft has agreed to change the way it develops, licenses, and markets its software. Software engineers and computer makers will be allowed to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft programs that compete with those programs already included within. Also, Microsoft agreed to stop retaliating against companies that produce or promote software and hardware that competes with Microsoft products.

The settlement not only addresses the issue that brought about the case, but provides for future problems as well. A technical oversight committee will ensure that Microsoft complies with the terms of the agreement, and the competition will be allowed to sue Microsoft directly if they feel they have been treated unfairly.

I believe that the longer uncertainty surrounds this case, the longer that innovation will stall. We must allow the industry and the economy to move forward, and I believe this settlement is the vehicle to do it.

Sincerely,

  
Rudy Masry